

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 00315 01 OF 02 210045Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /073 W
----- 120424

R 201656Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 515
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 315

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, WB

SUBJECT: MARCH 2 BERLIN ELECTIONS--THE ISSUES (OR
ABSENCE THEREOF)

REF: USBERLIN 0313

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN WAGED
AS BATTLE OF INS VERSUS OUTS, WITH OPPOSITIONAL PARTIES
STRESSING CENTRAL THEME THAT SPD HAS WIELDED POWER FAR
TOO LONG AND NEEDS TO BE REPLACED BY MORE RESPONSIVE
GOVERNMENT. RATHER THAN DEFENDING "DOMESTIC" RECORD,
SPD HAS FOCUSED ON OSTPOLITIK BENEFITS AND ON STATURE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 00315 01 OF 02 210045Z

OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ. IDEOLOGICAL AND EVEN

PROGRAMMATIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONTENDING PARTIES--
EXCEPTING THOSE OF EXTREME LEFT-HAVE BEEN MUTED OR
IGNORED. ELECTORATE SEEMS RELATIVELY APATHETIC, AND
LOW VOTER TURNOUT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. BERLIN ELECTION CAMPAIGN NOW DRAWING TO CLOSE HAS
BEEN WAGED AS CLASSIC BATTLE OF INS VERSUS OUTS.
(REFTEL REPORTS OUR THOUGHTS ON OUTCOME.) RATHER THAN
SEEKING TO DELINEATE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES OR TO
PROPOSE FRESH APPROACHES TO CURRENT BERLIN PROBLEMS AND
OPPORTUNITIES, OPPOSITIONAL PARTIES WITH EXCEPTION OF
EXTREME LEFT HAVE INSTEAD PERSISTENTLY REITERATED
CENTRAL THEME THAT RULING SPD HAS WIELDED POWER
IN BERLIN FAR TOO LONG AND HAS BECOME EXHAUSTED AND
DEVOID OF INSPIRATION. PRIME MANIFESTATION OF SPD'S
TOTAL INADEQUANCY, OPPOSITION ASSERTS, IS "CLOGGED-UP"
CITY BUREAUCRACY, WHICH HAS OVER YEARS BEEN PACKED WITH
SPD MEMBERS WHO ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR LONG TENURE HAVE
BECOME COMPLETELY INSENSITIVE TO NEEDS OF POPULACE. ALL
MISTAKES ARE LAID AT THIS BUREAUCRACY'S DOOR: FAILURE
TO CURB UNEMPLOYMENT: INADEQUANCY OF POLICE PROTECTION
FOR ORDINARY CITIZEN: "WHITE ELEPHANTS" SUCH AS
STEGLITZER KREISEL, TEGEL AIRPORT, AND NEW CONGRESS
CENTER, COMMUNIST STRONGHOLDS IN UNIVERSITIES: AND
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NOW IN PLANNING STATE SUCH AS
ZEHLENDORF TUNNEL AND ADDITIONAL CITY FREEWAYS. THRUST
OF OPPOSITIONAL ELECTORAL APPEAL IS THUS NOT ON SUBSTAN-
TIVE ISSUES SUCH AS STATUS OF BERLIN BUT ON PARAMOUNT
NEED FOR CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. "WE CAN DO IT BETTER" IS
MAIN CDU THEME. (ELECTORAL GOALS OF COURSE VERY AMONG
OPPOSITION PARTIES: WHILE CDU AIMS, AT LEAST PUBLICLY,
TO OBTAIN MAJORITY, ANNOUNCED FDP STRATEGY IS TO
FORCE SPD INTO MINORITY AND FORM COALITION GOVERNMENT.)
CONFRONTED WITH THIS KIND OF CAMPAIGN, AND NO DOUBT
RECOGNIZING THAT CERTAIN PAST MISTAKES ARE DIFFICULT
TO EXPLAIN AWAY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE SHIED AWAY FROM
DEFENDING "DOMESTIC" RECORD AND HAVE INSTEAD EMPHASIZED
PRACTICAL BENEFITS THAT HAVE FLOWED FROM OSTPOLITIK AND
CONTINUING VALUE TO BERLIN OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ
WHO HAS INFLUENCE IN BONN AND A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USBERL 00315 01 OF 02 210045Z

THREE ALLIES. SPD IS WELL AWARE THAT IN TERMS OF
PERSONAL POPULARITY, SCHUETZ STANDS HEAD AND SHOULDERS
NOT ONLY OVER CDU OR FDP MAYORAL CANDIDATES BUT OVER
HIS OWN PARTY AS WELL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 00315 02 OF 02 210051Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /073 W

----- 120476

R 201656Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 516
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 315

3. WITH OPPOSITION'S STRESS ON CHANGE FOR SAKE OF
CHANGE, IDEOLOGICAL AND EVEN PROGRAMMATIC DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN CONTENDING PARTIES--AGAIN EXCEPTING EXTREME
LEFT-HAVE BEEN MUTED OR IGNORED. ALL SUPPORT CO-
DETERMINATION (WITHOUT GETTING INTO DETAILS), BETTER
CARE FOR AGED, IMPROVED SCHOOLS, MORE HOSPITALS, AND
BETTER PUBLIC HOUSING, AND WITH PARTIAL
EXCEPTION OF BUND FREIES DEUTSCHLAND (BFD), ALL ACCEPT
CONSEQUENCES OF EASTERN TREATIES AND OSTPOLITIK
IN GENERAL (THIS IS NOT TO DENY, OF COURSE, CDU CLAIM
THAT POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL COST OF OSTPOLITIK HAS BEEN
EXCESSIVE). THERE ARE OCCASIONAL EXCEPTIONS EVEN AMONG
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 00315 02 OF 02 210051Z

MAJOR PARTIES TO THIS SUPPRESSION OF IDEOLOGY: FDP, FOR INSTANCE, PORTRAYS SELF IN CERTAIN ELECTORAL MATERIALS AS REPRESENTING HAPPY MIDDLE BETWEEN "RED" SPD AND "BLACK" CDU, DESPITE FACT THAT MAJORITY OF BERLIN FDP IS ON MOST ISSUES WELL TO LEFT OF GOVERNING SPD. PARTIES ON EXTREME LEFT OF SPECTRUM-SEW, KPD, AND KOMMUNISTISCHE BUND WESTDEUTSCHLAND (KBW)- OF COURSE HAVE LITTLE MORE TO OFFER THAN PURE IDEOLOGY, BUT THEIR CALL FOR "WORKING-CLASS POWER" IS CLEARLY OUT OF TUNE AND FINDS LITTLE RESPONANCE IN POPULATION THAT ALREADY ENJOYS SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND HAS DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCE OF LIVING SURROUNDED BY STATE WHERE PROLETARIAT IS SAID TO EXERCISE POWER.

4. WITH NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT STAKE, AND WITH OPPOSITION CRITIQUE OF SPD FAILING TO EVOKE MUCH REACTION, GENERAL MOOD OF ELECTORATE IS APATHETIC. CDU SLOGAN "VOTERS, GET MAD*" OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS CONCERN ABOUT THIS APATHY. MANY OBSERVERS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT VOTER TURNOUT, BY GERMAN STANDARDS, WILL BE LOW. IN PART, APATHY OF ELECTORAL IS BASED ON RECOGNITION THAT IT ULTIMATELY MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE FOR BERLIN'S FUTURE WHETHER SPD, CDU, OR SPD-FDP COALITION GOVERNS CITY. PRESENCE OF ALLIES, CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY SOVIET AND GDR POLICIES, AND PREPONDERANT ROLE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRICT MANEUVER-ROOM AND RANGE OF CHOICES AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ELECTED GOVERNMENT AS FAR AS "EXTERMAN" RELATIONS AND COEXISTENCE WITH GDR ARE CONCERNED. MAJOR LINES OF "DOMESTIC" POLICY ARE ALSO DETERMINED IN BONN RATHER THAN IN RATHAUS SCHOENEBOURG, AND CDU MAJORITY HERE WOULD HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL EFFECT AS LONG AS SPD-FDP COALITION REMAINS IN POWER AT FEDERAL LEVEL. GEORGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL00315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750061-0937
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750225/aaaaawxn.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 0313
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 2 BERLIN ELECTIONS--THE ISSUES (OR ABSENCE THEREOF)
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, WB, SDP
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006